

Borough of



Cheltenham

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1959

BY

T. O. P. D. LAWSON, M.D., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Together with the Report of
J. F. URSELL, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

"Salus Populi Suprema Lex"

Norman Brothers Limited, Cheltenham and London



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Constitution of Committees as at 31st December, 1959

Health Committee

Alderman LT.-COL. C. W. BIGGS, O.B.E. (*Chairman*)

Councillor A. E. TRIGG (*Vice-Chairman*)

Councillor C. C. BARLOW

Councillor W. BULLINGHAM

Alderman A. J. BETTRIDGE

Councillor C. W. A. FOSTER

Councillor R. F. BROOKES

Councillor Mrs. E. M. GARLAND

Councillor K. O. BROOKS

Councillor J. W. O. POPE

Councillor T. M. RUCK

(Co-opted Member, Charlton Kings U.D.C : Mr. H. R. Cox)

MEDICAL AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Alderman MISS F. L. CARTER (*Chairman*)

Councillor E. J. A. DADGE

Councillor H. G. JAMES

Councillor A. G. DYE

Mrs. I. M. B. JAMES

Rev. J. K. CAVELL

Mr. H. J. NORRIS

Mr. H. F. COOPER

Councillor J. W. O. POPE

Miss D. HORTON

Mr. L. J. RICHARDS

Councillor A. H. YATES

Health Department Staff

(as at 31.12.59)

Medical Officer of Health	} <i>Thomas O. P. D. Lawson, M.D.,</i> <i>D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.</i>
School Medical Officer	
Divisional Medical Officer	
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	} <i>D. E. Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.</i>
Assistant School Medical Officer	
Assistant School Medical Officer	
	<i>Brenda G. King, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S.,</i> <i>L.R.C.P.</i>
Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>J. F. Ursell, D.P.A., M.I.P.H.E.,</i> <i>F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*†</i>
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>A. L. Jones, M.A.P.H.I., San.Science</i> <i>R.S.H.*†</i>
District Inspectors	<i>G. J. C. Buck, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>A. H. Carling, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>R. Hullah, M.Inst.M.*†</i> <i>H. Stone, M.A.P.H.I.*†</i> <i>R. J. Wintle, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i>
School Dentists	<i>A. J. Lane, L.D.S.</i> <i>A. W. McCarthy, L.D.S.</i>
School Clinic Nurses	<i>Nurse M. Laffineur, S.R.N., R.F.N.</i> <i>Nurse M. S. Read, S.R.N.</i> <i>Nurse A. Wood, S.R.N.</i>
Chief Clerk	<i>W. H. G. Meakins</i>
Senior Clerk	<i>D. Y. Harrison</i>
Medical Officer of Health's Secretary	<i>Miss G. W. Hiron</i>
Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary	<i>Miss M. E. J. Edden</i>
Clerical Assistant	<i>Miss G. Kear</i>
School Clinic Clerks	<i>Miss J. Beach</i> <i>Miss A. Clark</i> <i>Miss M. Thomas</i>
School Dental Attendants	<i>Mrs. S. Oakey</i> <i>Mrs. S. Trafford</i>
Shorthand Typist	<i>Miss J. Pickering</i>
Enquiry Office Clerk	<i>Mrs. H. Tonks</i>
Junior Clerk	<i>Miss B. Thomas</i>
Pupil	<i>R. E. Jones</i>
Disinfection Officer	<i>G. Cross</i>

* Certified Meat and Foods Inspector, R.S.H.

† Public Health Inspector's Education Board Certificate.

NOTE—For Rodent Control and Abattoir staff see Report of Chief Public Health Inspector, page 64.

Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Cheltenham for the Year 1959

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Cheltenham.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Cheltenham for the year 1959.

There was no serious outbreak of any infectious disease throughout the year. No cases of poliomyelitis were notified. The main causes of death now vary little from year to year being chiefly the degenerative diseases and cancer. There is little difference, compared with last year, in the number of deaths from these causes, including lung cancer.

The infant mortality rate continues for the second year in succession to be below the national average for England and Wales and this is a very satisfactory result. Details of infant deaths are given later in the report.

This year another record has been established in the tuberculosis field. Not only is there a reduction in the number of all types of tuberculosis notified as compared with last year but there have been no deaths from the disease. The tuberculosis death rate for Cheltenham in 1959 is nil.

The following is a short summary of the more important aspects of the public health in Cheltenham during the year.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate i.e. the number of infants who died in the first year of life per 1,000 live births was 19.43 compared with a rate of 20.82 for the previous year. The number of infant deaths recorded during the year was 24, the same figure as last year, the increase in the birth rate accounting for the fall in the infant mortality rate. This is a highly satisfactory result and the first time the infant mortality rate for the Borough has fallen below 20.0. However, it would be advisable to point out that the figures quoted are taken from the official return of the Registrar General and we know from our local knowledge that the actual number of infant deaths in Cheltenham during 1959 was 27. The reason for the discrepancy is that three infant deaths occurred late in December 1959 and were not registered until early in January 1960 and will be included in the Registrar General's official return for 1960. Nevertheless if these three deaths were included, the infant mortality rate for the town still compares very favourably with the much improved figure last year and is still below the average for the rest of the country. We have every reason to be satisfied with the continued improvement for which we have all been striving these last few years.

Tuberculosis

Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis continue to remain at a low level and show a reduction as compared with the previous year. But the main feature of tuberculosis in Cheltenham during 1959 is the absence of any deaths from any form of the disease. This is the first time that a nil return in respect of the tuberculosis death rate for the town has ever been reported.

Other Infectious Diseases

The main feature of infectious disease has been the absence of any case of poliomyelitis during the year and we can only hope at the moment, this is a result of poliomyelitis vaccination. Over 80 per cent of children up to the age of 15 years have now been fully protected.

Two cases of Typhoid fever occurred in the town during the Summer. A detailed account of this outbreak which was fortunately confined to only two cases in the town, is given later in the report.

Maternal Mortality

For the first time for some years one mother unfortunately died following an operation necessitated by a complication of childbirth.

Other Vital Statistics

The population of the town continues to increase. The mid-year figure was 69,490 compared with 68,610 the previous year, an increase of 880. The number of births has also increased from 1,153 in 1958 to 1,235 in 1959, an increase of 82. The birth rate for 1959 is 17.77 per 1,000 population compared with 16.5 for the rest of the country. The death rate (12.02) has fallen slightly compared with last year (12.96) and is above the average for England and Wales (11.6) a regular feature of our vital statistics due to the age distribution of our population.

General

The health statistics of the Borough during 1959 show that a satisfactory standard is being maintained as well as a continued improvement, the main features being (1) An infant mortality rate below the national average, (2) No cases of poliomyelitis, (3) No deaths from any form of tuberculosis.

Once again I would record my appreciation of the support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and all other Members and Officers of the Council. I am particularly indebted to my staff who have to take on additional work almost every year as new health services are offered to the public. The advice and assistance I have received from Mr. J. F. Ursell, Chief Public Health Inspector, has always been of the greatest value, and the day to day administration of the Department has been ably carried out by Mr. W. H. G. Meakins, Chief Clerk, who is also responsible for the statistical data of this Report.

The smooth working of the Health Department services is greatly facilitated by the ready help and co-operation we always receive from members of the family doctor, hospital and laboratory services and this is a very great asset. The same applies to the many voluntary organisations in the town who concern themselves with the sick and disabled and to whom our co-operation is always readily available.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Press once again for their co-operation and assistance in matters of public health interest, which is beneficial not only to the Health Department but also to the community.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. O. P. D. LAWSON

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
P.O. Box No. 12,
Municipal Offices,
Cheltenham, Glos.
Telephone 2001.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1959

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	...	5,146 acres
Population	Census 1951, Corrected Figure					62,823
	Mid-year, 1959. Registrar General's Estimate					69,490
Number of inhabited houses (as at 31.3.60)	{	(a) Houses and Flats				21,342
		(b) Hotels, Occupied Shops, etc.				600
Rateable Value (as at 31.3.59)	...	...	...	...	...	£1,239,661
Sum represented by a penny rate (1959-60)	...	...	...	...	...	£4,943

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959

(with comparative figures for England and Wales).

	M.	F.	Total	Cheltenham	England & Wales
LIVE BIRTHS					
Legitimate ...	573	582	1155		
Illegitimate ...	49	31	80		
TOTALS ...	622	613	1235		
Rate per 1000 population				17.77	16.5
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	49	31	80		
Per cent of total live births ...				6.48%	
STILL BIRTHS					
Legitimate ...	18	13	31		
Illegitimate ...	1	2	3		
TOTAL ...	19	15	34		
Rate per 1000 live and still births				26.79	21.0
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS ...	641	628	1269		
INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under 1 year)					
Legitimate ...	10	13	23		
Illegitimate ...	—	1	1		
TOTAL ...	10	14	24		
INFANT MORTALITY RATES					
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births ...				19.43	22.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births ...				19.91	—
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births ...				12.5	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births) ...				14.57	15.8
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births) ...				12.15	—
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births) ...				38.62	34.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)	—	1	1		
Rate per 1000 live and still births				0.79	0.38
DEATHS (all ages) ...	347	488	835	12.02	11.6

NOTE. The figures for births and deaths are corrected for inward and outward transfers in order that the statistics may give as true a picture as possible of local conditions.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS—10 YEAR PERIOD 1950-59 (inclusive).

CHELTENHAM					INFANT DEATH RATES Per 1,000 Live Births		TOTAL DEATHS	DEATH RATE Per 1,000 of Population				
YEAR	Estimated Population RG	No. of Live Births	Birth Rate per 1000 population	Total Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age)	Cheltenham	England and Wales	Cheltenham	Cheltenham	England and Wales	Tuberculosis (Cheltenham)		
							Recorded	Corrected		Pulmonary	Other	
1950	64600	1033	15.99	43	41.63	29.8	12.72	11.3	11.6	0.23		0.046
1951	65080	1068	16.4	36	33.7	29.6	13.89	12.22	12.5	0.25		0.046
1952	65060	1113	17.1	38	34.14	27.6	12.76	11.23	11.3	0.108		0.046
1953	66210	1077	16.3	33	30.64	26.8	12.72	11.18	11.4	0.166		0.045
1954	67450	1132	16.78	33	29.15	25.5	13.0	10.66	11.3	0.119		0.029
1955	67730	1125	16.61	34	30.22	24.9	12.05	9.88	11.7	0.118		0.015
1956	68010	1187	17.45	33	27.8	23.8	12.69	11.17	11.7	0.103		0.00
1957	68230	1210	17.73	33	27.27	23.1	11.94	10.51	11.5	0.073		0.00
1958	68610	1153	16.81	24	20.82	22.6	12.96	11.01	11.7	0.058		0.015
1959	69490	1235	17.77	24	19.43	22.2	12.02	10.21	11.6	0.00		0.00

The Registrar's estimate of the population of Cheltenham for mid-year 1959 is 69,490 which is 880 more than the estimate for 1958.

The Crude Death Rate was 12·02 a slightly lower figure than that of last year. The corrected Death Rate (Registrar's correction factor 0·85) was 10·2 compared with the figure of 11·6 for England and Wales.

Live Births in 1959 totalled 1,235 which is 82 more than the figure for the previous year.

The Birth Rate was 17.77 and is higher than the figure for 1958. The Registrar now provides a correction factor for birth rates. For Cheltenham this factor is 0.97 which gives a rate of 17.2 compared with the rate of 16.5 for England and Wales.

The number of Still Births, per 1,000 live and still births, was 26.79 (or 25.98 corrected) compared with 21.0 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death relating to Cheltenham Residents as given by the Registrar General for the year 1959.

							Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	6	6	5
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	27	27	5
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	—	13
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—	11
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	27	27	37
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous systems	...	...	...	...	34	34	78
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	81	81	77
19	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	8	8	12
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	52	52	100
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	15	15	31
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	3	7
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	12	12	21
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	27	27	8
							<hr/>	<hr/>
Total carried forward							294	408

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Total brought forward					294	408
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	4	5
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	3	3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	1
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	4	5
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	24	42
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	4	5
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	14
35	Suicide	...	...	...	4	3
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—
All Causes					347	488

DISCUSSION

Heart Disease

Heart disease continues to be the cause of the largest number of deaths, coronary disease being the main contributory factor. Well over 40 % of deaths from heart disease are due to this condition.

Cancer

Deaths from all forms of cancer (131) were slightly lower than the previous year (150). Deaths from lung cancer (32) were very similar to last year (34). On an average lung cancer accounts for about thirty deaths per year in Cheltenham, the majority of these being males.

Deaths from Accidents

The table below shows the number of deaths caused by accidents during the last five years, death caused by motor vehicle accidents being shown separately. In spite of the increasing traffic on the streets there is no increase in deaths caused by motor vehicle accidents in the town.

					<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	<i>Other Accidents</i>
1955	...	...	...	...	9	21
1956	...	...	...	...	6	18
1957	...	...	...	...	12	23
1958	...	...	...	...	8	29
1959	...	...	...	...	9	17

Infant Mortality

There were 24 infant deaths recorded during the year. This number is the same as last year and is once again the lowest ever recorded for the town. It gives an infant mortality rate of 19.43 compared with 20.82 in 1958. The average infant mortality rate for England and Wales (1959) was 22.2. The causes of these infant deaths were as follows:

				<i>Neo-Natal</i>	<i>1 mth-1 yr.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Prematurity	...	...	...	11	1	12
Respiratory	...	...	...	1	3	4
Congenital Malformation			...	4	—	4
Birth Injury	...	...	...	1	—	1
Accidental Death		...	...	—	1	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	2	—	2
				<hr/> 19	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 24

The only significant feature about the above table is the number of deaths due to prematurity, half the total deaths. This is a problem which will never be completely solved until we know more about the causes of prematurity. All the modern resources available to save these infants are practised in our maternity and children's hospitals and the majority survive, but some of the more severe cases are bound to succumb. Seven premature babies were treated at home by specially trained domiciliary midwives during the year and all survived. The introduction of a home nursing service for sick children has proved a successful venture. One specially qualified nurse is employed full time on this work which is steadily increasing. Most of the cases are referred by the family doctors whose co-operation has contributed to the success of the new service.

The infant death rate has shown a distinct improvement for two successive years, after ten years of disappointing results. This is a cause of great satisfaction to all concerned in the maternity and child welfare services, the hospitals, family doctors and the Health Department, all of whom have worked together to achieve this very satisfactory result. Our continued co-operation should ensure that this success is maintained.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH

There has been no change of importance in any of the four sources of supply referred to in previous annual reports. Regular samples are taken at all these sources by members of the staff of the Health Department and are submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis. In addition, one member of the staff is responsible for drawing the Spa Water at the Pump Room, for sterilizing and testing and delivering supplies to the Town Hall. All samples of water supplies including Spa Waters are examined by Mr. J. Henderson, Analyst to the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board, who has provided the following report showing the number of samples examined bacteriologically and chemically during 1959.

<i>Bacteriological Examinations.</i>						<i>No. of Samples examined</i>	
						1958	1959
Tewkesbury							
Raw River Water ...	...	...	...	...	...	136	152
Coagulated water at outlet, from tanks				...	...	51	53
Coagulated water above filters	...	...	...	...	...	52	50
Filtered water ...	...	...	...	...	...	420	479
Final Chloraminated water	...	...	...	...	...	759	770
						<hr/>	<hr/>
						1418	1504

*Bacteriological Examinations.**No. of Samples examined*

						1958	1958
Cheltenham							
Dowdeswell Raw	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
Dowdeswell Clean	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
Hewletts Raw	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
Northfield	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
Sandford	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	38	37
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Spa Waters	...	...	...	...	...	24	24
						<hr/> 106	<hr/> 113

The intensity of bacterial pollution of the River Severn, as measured by the number of samples showing the presence of presumptive coliform organisms in volumes of 0.01 ml. or less showed a welcome decrease to 55.9% compared with 66.2% for the previous year. The more important differential analysis of the coliform organisms, which aims at showing the excretal pollution which the river receives, indicated a similar welcome improvement. 30.0% of the river samples showed the presence of Bact. Coli I in volumes of 0.01 ml. or less, as against 33.8% during 1958.

Raw River Water

Percentage of samples yielding by minimal volumes:

	<i>Coliform Organisms</i>		<i>Bact. Coli I.</i>	
In 0.001 ml.	13.2%	(19.1%)	3.3%	(9.6%)
In 0.01 ml.	42.7%	(47.1%)	26.7%	(24.2%)
In 0.1 ml.	42.1%	(31.6%)	42.2%	(47.0%)
In 1.0 ml.	2.0%	(2.2%)	23.1%	(11.8%)
In 10.0 ml.			4.7%	(7.4%)

(1958 results in brackets)

Of the final water going into supply, 99.4% of the samples showed the absence of presumptive coliform organisms in 100 ml. quantities. One sample gave a positive Bact. Coli. I result, but this was not confirmed in duplicated reference samples.

The bacteriological condition of samples of potable water derived from Cheltenham's local sources has continued to be satisfactory, as has the condition of the water in the swimming pools at Alstone and Sandford.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS*No. of Samples Examined*

Tewkesbury							1958	1959
Raw river water	...	...	...	...	...	...	898	909
Coagulated and Filtered waters	...	...	...	...	...	...	3355	2142
Final waters	...	...	...	...	...	...	1698	1715
							<hr/> 5951	<hr/> 4766

Cheltenham*No. of Samples Examined*

							1958	1959
Dowdeswell	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	9
Northfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Sandford	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
							<hr/> 15	<hr/> 22

RADIOACTIVITY OF WATER SAMPLES AND RAINFALL

Faced with the enormous deficiency in our knowledge of the impact of nuclear science on our water supplies, measurements of radioactivity were commenced in the early part of the year. The aim has been to provide a picture for the future of the levels which might be anticipated in our water supplies, and to detect any increase in these levels due to the deliberate, or accidental, introduction of artificial, or man-made, radioactive substances to these supplies.

It soon became apparent that there still remained in the upper atmosphere certain amounts of radioactive materials which had resulted from the nuclear explosions of 1958 and earlier. These were being continuously leached out by rainfall to contaminate our natural surface waters although the gross contamination still remained well below safe levels, and was considerably lower than in many other parts of the country.

By late summer there was a noticeable decrease in the activity of the rainfall and, thereafter the rapid decline to the end of the year was spectacular. By year's end the activity of the rainfall was of the order of only 1/20th to 1/40th of what had been recorded in the Spring of the year. The activity of the surface water supplies had improved in like manner.

In the absence of further nuclear explosions, it is anticipated that a complete picture of what is natural radioactivity in our rainfall and water supplies will be obtained during 1960.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are two public swimming baths in the town, a covered bath and an open air pool. In both cases the source of the water used for filling is the mains supply and the method of treatment is filtration and automatic chlorination. In the covered bath there is a complete change of water every 4 hours both in the main pool and the instructional pool. In the open air pool there is a complete change every 6 hours.

Regular samples of water from the swimming baths are submitted for bacteriological examination. They showed that a satisfactory standard had been maintained throughout the year. Owing to the increasing popularity of the Sandford Baths a request was made to the Council to improve the Chlorination system in the small pool and this work will be completed before the 1960 Summer season.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS

During 1959, licences to use special designations in relation to milk sold within the Borough, totalled one hundred and three as follows:—

Designation	Type of Licence			Total
	Pasteurisers	Dealers	Supplementary	
Tuberculin Tested	—	45	3	48
Pasteurised	2	38	3	43
Sterilised	—	12	—	12
TOTALS	2	95	6	103

Samples are taken fortnightly for analysis and the reports are submitted to the Health Committee.

Very few results during 1959 failed to satisfy the standards of the Ministry of Health.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following statement shows the corrected numbers of cases notified during 1959. (Tuberculosis is dealt with separately). An analysis of the notifications according to age and sex is set out on page 19.

Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	764
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

NOTES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were no epidemics during the year although measles showed the usual biennial increase. There was a striking reduction in the number of cases of whooping cough coinciding with a marked increase in the number of children immunised against the disease during the last two years.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the town throughout the year. The vaccination programme has continued and has been very successful in the younger age groups. Over 80 per cent of children between the age of six months and fifteen years have been protected with the two initial doses and a third booster dose. Over the age of 15 years and up to 40 years the response has not been nearly good enough in spite of widespread publicity.

Meales

There was an increase in the number of notified cases of measles (764) as compared with (499) in the previous year. There was one death from the disease.

Whooping Cough

There was a very considerable decrease in the number of cases of whooping cough during the year, 10 as compared with 143 in the previous year. In 1958 the number of children immunised against whooping cough nearly doubled and this increase has been well maintained during 1959 as is shown in the table below. No deaths from the disease were reported.

The number of children in the Borough who were immunised against the disease is as follows:—

Local Authority	Under 1 yr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
	291	56	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	351
Private Practitioners	176	20	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	202
	467	76	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	553

There was a further increase of immunisations over last year's figure (500) and which is now approaching half the annual birth rate but it could still be much higher.

It is encouraging to see this further increase in immunisation and it will be very satisfactory if notifications remain around the same level next year.

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases notified, divided into groups of age and sex.

	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Under 1 year	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —		
1 to 2 years	M. 2 F. 1	M. 2 F. 2	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —		
3 to 4 years	M. 4 F. 5	M. 4 F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —		
5 to 9 years	M. 3 F. 10	M. — F. 2	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —		
10 to 14 years	M. — F. 4	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —		
15 to 24 years	M. 2 F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —		
25 years and over	M. — F. 1	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —		
Age unknown	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —		
Total (all ages)	11 21	6 4	— —	— —	365 399	— —	
	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Smallpox	Acute Encephalitis		Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fever
				Infective	Post-infectious		
Under 5 years	M. 2 F. —	M. 2 F. 4	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
5 to 14 years	M. 1 F. 3	M. 4 F. 6	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
15 to 44 years	M. 2 F. 7	M. 2 F. 1	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
45 to 64 years	M. 1 F. 8	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
65 years and over	M. 4 F. 8	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
Age unknown	M. 1 F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —
Total (all ages)	11 26	8 11	— —	— —	— —	— 2	— —
	Erysipelas	Meningococcal infection	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Malaria	Food Poisoning	
Under 5 years	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
5 to 14 years	M. — F. —	M. 2 F. —	— —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
15 to 44 years	M. — F. —	M. 1 F. —	— —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
45 to 64 years	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	66 —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
65 years and over	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	— —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
Age unknown	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	— —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	M. — F. —	
Total (all ages)	— —	3 —	66 —	— —	— —	2 4	

Diphtheria

The following table shows the number of complete injections carried out, together with the immunity index :—

Age at 31.12.59 i.e. born in years indicated.	Under 1 1959	1-4 1955-1958	5-9 1950-1954	10-14 1945-1949	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injec- tions (whether primary or booster)					
A.1955-1959	132	2892	4092	2702	9818
B.1954 or earlier	—	—	795	2727	3522
C. Estimated mid-year child population	1176	3853	11,581		16,610
Immunity Index 100A/C	11.2	75.0	58.6		59.1

The total number of immunisations each year is still increasing and there is a welcome increase in the protection rate among children under 5 years. There has not been a notified case of diphtheria in the town since 1952.

The figures in the following table show the total number of immunisations known to have been completed during the last five years :—

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
By the School Doctors and at Welfare Clinics ...	304	452	381	434	525
By Private Practitioners ...	654	639	515	616	405
	958	1091	896	1050	930

The 405 cases completed by private practitioners during 1959 included 241 combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisations.

Reinforcing Doses

During 1959, 1,636 reinforcing doses were given, 64 by Private Practitioners and 1,572 by the School Doctors.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 10 YEAR PERIOD 1950-59 INCLUSIVE

Year	Malaria	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Poliomylaelitis		Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis		
								P	NP									Pulmonary	Other	
1950	1	—	53	1	—	4	35	6	17	6	2	—	47	—	I. — P. —	1448	225	70	14	
1951	—	—	58	—	1	8	59	1	1	4	—	—	22	5	2	218	196	58	17	
1952	—	—	25	1	—	16	47	2	3	5	—	—	5	3	—	1108	149	38	9	
1953	1	—	87	—	—	18	68	1	1	6	2	2	3	11	—	1	376	283	40	7
1954	—	—	61	—	—	26	32	17	12	5	2	1	5	14	—	—	530	145	53	4
1955	—	—	107	—	—	54	36	7	5	4	1	6	6	14	—	797	109	46	7	
1956	1	—	50	—	—	44	46	—	1	5	4	1	12	1	—	545	148	34	8	
1957	—	—	35	—	—	80	43	6	3	7	1	1	1	33	—	739	70	29	8	
1958	—	—	23	—	—	62	35	—	2	3	5	5	6	16	2	499	143	36	7	
1959	—	—	32	—	2	66	37	—	—	—	3	—	19	6	—	764	10	31	4	

P=Paralytic
NP=Non-Paralytic

I=Infective
P=Post-Infectious

Vaccination against Smallpox

The number of children under one year vaccinated against smallpox (607) is not as high as last year (676) but the vaccination rate at this age is reasonably satisfactory, being 54·7% of the number of children born during the year. About 46% of these vaccinations were done in Child Welfare Centres and the remainder by family doctors.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

(Salmonella Infections that are not considered to be food borne should not be included under items (2), (3) or (4) but should be shown separately under item (5)).

1. Local Authority. Cheltenham. Year 1959.

2. (a) Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) as returned to Registrar General.

<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	—	1	5	6

(b) Cases otherwise ascertained

<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	—	—	—	—

(c) Symptomless Excreters

<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	—	—	—	—

Note: Symptomless excreters should not be regarded as cases and any notification of a symptomless excreter should be corrected. The numbers for each quarter or the yearly total alone, if more convenient, may at the Authority's discretion, be entered here.

(d) Fatal Cases

<i>1st Quarter</i>	<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<i>4th Quarter</i>	<i>Total</i>
—	—	—	—	—

3. Particulars of Outbreaks

Details of each outbreak should also be given separately in Appendix D (ii) of Memo 188/Med. (Revised 1958) if this information has not already been sent to the Ministry of Health.

AGENT	No. of outbreaks		No. of cases		Total No. of cases
	Family outbreaks	Other outbreaks	Notified	Otherwise As-certained	
Agent identified:					
(a) Chemical Poisons (type to be stated)	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Salmonella (type to be stated)					
Typhi Murium	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Staphylococci (including Toxin)	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Cl. botulinum	—	—	—	—	—
(e) Cl. welchii	—	—	—	—	—
(f) Other bacteria (to be named)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	—	—	—
Agent not identified	—	—	—	—	—

4. Single Cases

AGENT	No. of cases		Total No. of Cases
	Notified	Otherwise ascertained	
Agent identified:			
(a) Chemical Poisons (type to be stated)	—	—	—
(b) Salmonella (type to be stated)			
Typhi Murium	—	—	—
(c) Staphylococci (including Toxin)	—	—	—
(d) Cl. botulinum	—	—	—
(e) Cl. welchii	—	—	—
(f) Other bacteria (to be named)	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—
Agent not identified	6	—	6

5. Salmonella Infections, not Food-borne.

Salmonella (Type)	Outbreaks		No. of cases (outbreaks)	Single cases	Total No. of cases (Outbreaks and single Cases)
	Family	Other			
—	—	—	—	—	—

Holiday Hazards

On August 31st, 1959 the Health Department was notified by telephone that a patient admitted to a hospital in Cheltenham had been found to be suffering from typhoid fever. She was removed the same day to Ham Green Hospital, Bristol. Further enquiries were started at once and at the patient's home in Cheltenham a cousin was found suffering from symptoms suggestive of typhoid fever. Investigation very quickly confirmed the diagnosis and a second case was removed to Ham Green Hospital, Bristol.

The second patient gave us an account of her own and her cousin's previous movements and it transpired that both had left Cheltenham on July 24th on a coach tour to Spain returning August 8th. The information was given that nearly all the passengers on the coach suffered from vomiting and diarrhoea during the tour. The name of the company which organised the tour was also obtained.

An immediate request to the coach company provided a complete passenger list on this particular tour, although addresses were not available in many cases as some passengers had booked through other agencies in various parts of the country. However, the name of the agency was provided in each case and every Medical Officer of Health who had a passenger in his area was notified. Every person was traced, either directly or through a tourist agency. They came from all parts of England and one in Scotland.

Of the thirty-three passengers on the coach, eleven were admitted to hospital suffering from typhoid fever including the two Cheltenham cases. In each case, the organisms isolated from the patients were sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale for investigation. They proved identical in each case, a typhoid organism rarely found in this country and peculiar to the Costa Brava. An itinerary of the tour received from the coach company showed that the party had visited this part of Spain.

Fortunately no further cases occurred in Cheltenham. The two patients lived alone in a self-contained flat and felt so unwell after their holiday that they had not returned to work. Both made a good recovery, although one was very ill.

For many years typhoid fever has been almost unheard of in this country. Perhaps we will see more of it as a result of the increasing popularity of Continental holidays. However, preventive inoculation (TAB) is available to anyone going abroad on holiday. It might be a wise precaution.

TUBERCULOSIS
New Cases and Mortality during 1959

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ...	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 „ ...	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 „ ...	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	18	13	2	2	—	—	—	—

There was a decrease in the number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, 31 as compared with 36 in 1958. There were 4 cases of the non-pulmonary type as compared with 7 in 1958.

Death Rates

The tuberculosis death rates for Cheltenham during 1959 were as follows:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis		0.00	} Per 1,000 of Population
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		0.00	
Total		0.00	
Comparative Figures	England and Wales	Total	0.08

As will be seen from the above figures there were no deaths in the town from tuberculosis during the year.

HOUSING

Regular visits were made with members of the Public Health Committee to houses considered unfit for human habitation and appropriate recommendations made to the Housing Committee.

The following is the number of cases dealt with during the year :—

Number of cases rehoused because of Tuberculosis 7 (3)

Number of cases rehoused from houses on which a Demolition or Closing Order was operative ... 64 (72)

The 1958 figures are shown in brackets.

REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF NURSING HOMES.

SECTIONS 187-194. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

At the commencement of 1959 there were 9 Nursing Homes on the Register.

The total number of beds available at the end of the year was 100 classified as follows :—

	Number of of Homes	Number of beds provided for		
		Maternity	Others	Totals
Homes first registered during the year.	—	—	—	—
Homes whose registrations were withdrawn during the year.	—	—	—	—
Homes on the register at the end of the year.	9	9	91	100

Private Nursing Homes in Cheltenham still provide a most valuable addition to the accommodation available for sick persons.

Many of the homes provide mainly for old persons and help in no small way to solve a problem which yearly becomes more difficult.

Visits were paid to all Nursing Homes on two or more occasions during the year.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

(National Assistance Act, 1948 Sec. 47 and Amendment Act October, 1951)

No persons in need of care and protection were removed during the year under the above Act.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following examinations for the purpose of employment were carried out during the year :—

<i>Purpose of Examinations</i>	<i>Numbers Examined</i>	
	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>
Superannuation Act, 1937 and 1953 and National Health Service (Superannuation)	167	88
Candidates for admission to Teachers Training College	—	66
Candidates for Employment as Teachers	—	14
Reports on Corporation Employees		
Prolonged Sick Leave, etc.	—	—
On behalf of other Authorities	—	9
	167	177

Total examinations

344

Total examinations carried out during 1958 amounted to 220.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

To the Chairman and Members of the School Medical Sub-Committee

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the School Health Service for the year 1959.

The health of the school children during the year has been exceptionally good and apart from some increase in measles there has been no outbreak of any of the infectious diseases. Nutritional standards assessed by the school medical officers are well up to normal.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year and only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis. Once again there were no cases of diphtheria and only two cases of whooping cough. Altogether a very healthy year.

There has been still further improvement in the infestation rate and this problem is now almost reduced to the irreducible minimum. This has been brought about largely by applying stricter measures with frequent offenders.

We are still able to provide a satisfactory and adequate dental service for school children in the Borough due to our fortunate position in being able to retain the necessary staff of dental surgeons.

Vaccination and immunisation programmes continue apace and all show an increase over last year's figures, a welcome sign of the increasing awareness among parents of the value of prevention of disease.

All these satisfactory achievements flow from a happy and fruitful co-operation between ourselves and teachers, parents and family doctors and the result is a school population which has never been healthier.

I would like to record my appreciation once again of the support and encouragement which I always receive from the Chairman and Members of the School Medical Sub-Committee and for the continued co-operation of Mr. Simmonds, the Borough Education Officer and his staff. My thanks are also due to my own medical, dental, nursing and clerical staff for their loyalty and support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. O. P. D. LAWSON,

School Medical Officer.

School Medical Inspections

The routine medical inspections of school children have continued during 1959 and 4,459 children were examined throughout the year.

Children are examined:—

- (a) on entry for the first time to a maintained school;
- (b) during the year in which they are 8 years old;
- (c) after entry to a secondary school when they are 12 years old and
- (d) in the last year of their attendance at a secondary school.

These examinations are full routine medical inspections.

In addition, older pupils are examined before they leave school at the higher age groups in Pate's Grammar School for Girls, the Boys' Grammar School and the Technical High School.

As a result of these inspections, 574 pupils were found to have defective vision (excluding squint) and where necessary were referred to the Eye Specialist. A further 665 children were found to be suffering from other defects or diseases requiring treatment, and the necessary action was taken in all cases. The number of defects requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment was 1,581 and the children concerned were kept under special observation during the year. This latter group of course, includes very many minor defects which may be remedied spontaneously and never require treatment. They are kept under observation merely as a precautionary measure. This is of course the main purpose of the routine medical inspections, to prevent the minor defect becoming a major one.

The mid-year school population was 11,581 and every child has an up-to-date school medical record.

Special School Medical Inspections

These inspections cover children examined other than at a routine medical inspection for some special reason. During 1959, 55 children were examined at these inspections, and the appropriate action taken.

Re-Inspections

Re-inspections have been held each term in all schools in the Borough when children who had previously been noted at routine or special medical inspections to be in need of further observation and advice, were seen by the School Medical Officers.

During 1959, 752 children were examined at these inspections.

PART I

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**
(Including Special Schools)

Table A. Periodic Medical Inspections

Age Groups Inspected (By year of Birth)	No. of Pupils Inspected	Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected			
		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
1955 and later	63	62	98.4	1	1.6
1954	708	707	99.9	1	0.1
1953	300	299	99.7	1	0.3
1952	27	26	96.3	1	3.7
1951	898	894	99.6	4	0.4
1950	68	68	100.0	—	—
1949	—	—	—	—	—
1948	79	79	100.0	—	—
1947	1070	1066	99.6	4	0.4
1946	101	100	99.0	1	1.0
1945	800	799	99.9	1	0.1
1944 and earlier	345	345	100.0	—	—
TOTAL	4459	4445	99.7	14	0.3

Table B. Pupils found to require treatment at periodic Medical Inspections
(excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Age Groups Inspected (by year of birth)	For Defective Vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions Recorded in Pt. II	Total Individual Pupils
1955 and later	1	18	19
1954	17	136	149
1953	7	50	54
1952	1	4	4
1951	101	151	231
1950	8	10	16
1949	—	—	—
1948	22	8	29
1947	148	149	278
1946	16	19	33
1945	156	94	230
1944 and earlier	97	26	116
TOTAL	574	665	1159

Table C. Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections ...	55
Number of Re-Inspections ...	752
TOTAL	807

Table D. Infestation with Vermin

(1) Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by school nurses or other authorised persons ...	24,768
(2) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	228
(3) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944) ...	177
(4) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3) Education Act, 1944) ...	—

The above figures show a still lower infestation rate than last year. The number of school children found to be infested during the year was under 1% of the total of children examined.

PART II**Table A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection during the year.**

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections							
	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total	
	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)
Skin	17	34	16	22	41	47	74	103
Eyes								
(a) Vision	26	24	202	12	346	61	574	97
(b) Squint	28	10	6	2	36	7	70	19
(c) Other	2	4	6	9	17	13	25	26
Ears								
(a) Hearing	16	48	11	25	26	72	53	145
(b) Otitis Media ...	8	20	2	4	6	33	16	57
(c) Other	3	6	4	3	7	7	14	16
Nose and Throat ...	59	153	11	21	56	96	126	270
Speech	5	30	3	—	18	15	26	45
Lymphatic Glands ...	1	36	—	3	4	28	5	67
Heart	—	19	—	16	—	49	—	84
Lungs	13	57	2	17	14	68	29	142
Developmental								
(a) Hernia	3	7	—	4	3	2	6	13
(b) Other	4	16	2	10	8	38	14	64
Orthopaedic								
(a) Posture	—	5	4	20	3	37	7	62
(b) Feet	28	13	23	7	53	17	104	37
(c) Other	23	33	9	27	34	40	66	100
Nervous System								
(a) Epilepsy	2	3	3	2	13	6	18	11
(b) Other	2	9	2	7	2	9	6	25
Psychological								
(a) Development ...	1	7	1	22	10	54	12	83
(b) Stability	1	13	3	6	5	25	9	44
Abdomen	1	12	—	4	4	23	5	39
Other	5	12	3	4	8	16	16	52

(T)—Treatment. (O)—Observation.

Table B. Special Inspections

Defect or Disease	Special Inspections	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Skin	2	—
Eyes		
(a) Vision	9	3
(b) Squint	—	—
(c) Other	1	1
Ears		
(a) Hearing	2	—
(b) Otitis Media	—	—
(c) Other	1	1
Nose or Throat	—	3
Speech	—	—
Lymphatic Glands	—	1
Heart	—	—
Lungs	—	3
Developmental		
(a) Hernia	—	—
(b) Other	—	—
Orthopaedic		
(a) Posture	—	—
(b) Feet	—	—
(c) Other	2	2
Nervous System		
(a) Epilepsy	1	—
(b) Other	1	1
Psychological		
(a) Development	1	6
(b) Stability	1	6
Abdomen	—	2
Other	2	1

PART III
Treatment of Pupils attending maintained Primary and Secondary Schools
(Including Special Schools)
Table A. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint

	<i>No. of Cases known to have been dealt with</i>
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	46
Errors of refraction (including squint)	746
Total	792
No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	611

Table B. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat

	<i>Number of Cases known to have been dealt with</i>
Received operative treatment :—	
(a) for disease of the ear	15
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ...	288
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ...	67
Received other forms of treatment	191
	<hr/>
Total	561
	<hr/>

Total number of pupils in schools who are known
to have been provided with hearing aids :—

(a) in 1959	2
(b) in previous years	5

Table C. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

*Number of Cases known
to have been treated*

(a) Pupils treated at Clinics or outpatients departments	349
(b) Pupils treated at school for postural defects	—
	<hr/>
Total	349
	<hr/>

Table D. Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table D of Part I)

Ringworm (i) Scalp	—
(ii) Body	7
Scabies	—
Impetigo	26
Other skin diseases	67
	<hr/>
Total	100
	<hr/>

Table E. Child Guidance Treatment

Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics ...	82
--	----

Table F. Speech Therapy

Pupils treated by Speech Therapists	141
--	-----

Table G. Other Treatment Given

*Number of Cases known
to have been dealt with*

(a) Pupils with Minor Ailments ...	1633
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements ...	4
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. Vac- cination	481
(d) Other than (a) (b) and (c) above (specify)	
1. U.V.L. Treatment	48
2. Anaemia	5
3. Chest	31
4. Debility	17
	<hr/>
Total ...	2219
	<hr/>

The foregoing tables record the general range of examination and treatment carried out within the school health service during the year and the various defects found to require treatment or observation. Except for defects of vision, no treatment is undertaken or arranged without the concurrence of the child's own family doctor. These statistics do not demonstrate a high rate of defects or disease. Much of the treatment undertaken is preventative or remedial and this is the main purpose of the school health service.

During the year, with the co-operation of the head teachers, routine audiometry tests were continued in the schools. The County Education Authority provided the services of a skilled examiner and the six year old group was selected for examination, although the examiner will test any special case referred to him by the head teacher. This is proving a very useful means of discovering early cases of hearing defect and where necessary, treatment can be started at an early age before the disability can affect the child's education. Children in nineteen schools have been tested during the year involving 1,163 schoolchildren. Twenty eight children were referred to specialists and others dealt with by the school medical officer or family doctor.

Minor Ailment Clinics

The number of children attending these clinics has decreased during the year, but as a result more time has been devoted to other special examinations of school children, superannuation examinations etc.

PART IV DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:—						
(a)	At Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	8887
(b)	As Specials	...	...	...	...	668
					Total	9555	
(2)	Number found to require treatment					5450	
(3)	Number offered treatment					3888	
(4)	Number actually treated					2479	
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment					5035	
(6)	Half days devoted to: Periodic (School) Inspection					70	
	General Anaesthetics					61	
	Treatment					770	
					Total	901	
(7)	Fillings: Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	2513
	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	90
					Total	2603	
(8)	Number of Teeth Filled: Permanent Teeth					2325	
	Temporary Teeth					87	
					Total	2412	

(9)	Extractions:	Permanent Teeth ...	...	...	...	864
		Temporary Teeth ...	...	...	...	2443
						<hr/>
Total						3307
						<hr/>
(10)	Administrations of general anaesthetics for extraction ...					1726
(11)	Orthodontics					
(a)	Cases commenced during year		...	...	...	16
(b)	Cases brought forward from previous year				...	23
(c)	Cases completed during the year		...	...	...	24
(d)	Cases discontinued during the year			...	...	7
(e)	Pupils treated with appliances		...	...	...	16
(f)	Removable appliances fitted		...	...	...	22
(g)	Fixed appliances fitted		...	...	...	—
(h)	Total attendances		...	...	...	145
						<hr/>
(12)	Number of pupils supplied with artificial teeth				...	33
						<hr/>
(13)	Other operations :	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	1239
		Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	40
						<hr/>
Total						1279

Our two dental surgeons and their staff have been fully occupied during the year and once again the number of dental inspections in the schools and treatments carried out have increased. Every school child has the opportunity of having a full dental inspection approximately once per year and more children have accepted and received treatment as compared with last year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in school children during the year. The vaccination programme has continued at the same pace as last year and over 80 per cent of the school children in the town have now been protected.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. The decrease in the number of children immunised last year as a result of the priority given to poliomyelitis vaccination, is now being made good.

Other Infectious Diseases

Total notifications of infectious diseases in respect of school children are shown below. The measles outbreak was seasonal but the striking feature is the drop in notifications of Whooping Cough from 51 in 1958 to 2 cases during 1959.

<i>Measles</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Poliomyelitis Paralytic</i>	<i>Non-Paralytic</i>
370	Nil	17	2	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis

The following notifications of tuberculosis in children of age groups 5-15 years have been received during the year :—

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Pulmonary	...	...	1	—	1
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	1	—	1

B.C.G. Vaccination

The following table shows details of the tuberculin testing and vaccination scheme during 1959. B.C.G. vaccination has been available to all school children attending Local Authority schools in Cheltenham, between the age of 13 and 14 years, since 1954.

No. of Schools	Invited	Accepted	Tuberculin Tested	No. Positive	No. Negative	% Positive	NOT Vaccin- ated	Vaccin- ated
11	1052	634	566	56	481	10.4	—	481

The welcome increase in B.C.G. vaccination reported last year has been maintained and there is actually a slight increase on last year's figure of 59 per cent. It is to be hoped that this simple, safe, and effective protection will become even more acceptable to parents. The acceptance rate should at least equal that for diphtheria and poliomyelitis.

SPEECH THERAPY

At the beginning of the year there were no children awaiting admission for treatment and, as a result of this, it was possible to admit immediately any children referred or discovered during school visits. It was also possible to give treatment to some children more than once a week where this was thought desirable. More school and home visits could be made than formerly was the case and this closer liaison with the schools especially, is much to be desired.

At the request of the Headmaster, all the infants of Holy Trinity School were examined for possible speech defects. It was found that only among those children already suggested by the class teachers were speech disorders present, and this time-consuming experiment was not repeated elsewhere.

In addition to the number of children admitted for regular treatment, as shown in the analysis following, 114 children were seen at the request of teachers. 92 of these had no actual speech defects but were slovenly speakers. 22 had minor defects and their difficulties were thoroughly investigated. It was found unnecessary to give treatment regularly as their speech improved with help from parents who had been given suitable guidance and from class teachers who were most co-operative.

During the last two months the number of children referred for Speech Therapy has increased and at the year's end there was a waiting list of 26.

The following is an analysis of the work carried out during the year.

Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	...	...	351
Number of Sessions for School Visiting, Clerical, etc.	...					129
Number of Consultations	...	...	...	...	...	231
Number of Treatments given	...	...	...	...	...	1,706
Number of Children admitted	...	...	...	...	...	51
Number of Children discharged	...	...	...	...	...	49
Number of Children on Register, 31st December, 1959	...					95

The number of children discharged were classified as follows :—

	Stammer		Stammer and Dyslalia		Dyslalia		Cleft Palate		Other Disorders		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Provisionally Cured	1	1	3	—	19	8	—	—	1	—	33
Much Improved	5	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	1	11
Slightly Improved Unco-operative	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
No Improvement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Left District and School	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
TOTAL	8	1	3	—	24	10	—	—	2	1	49

Physiotherapy

A physiotherapy clinic is held on two days per week. Children are referred by the School Medical Officer from the routine school medical inspections or from minor ailments clinics. Treatment consists of graduated exercises and ultra violet light. Progress is watched and the children are re-inspected at school.

Recuperative Holidays

We are indebted to the Cheltenham Rotary Club for generously providing a free fortnight's holiday for Cheltenham schoolboys at Weston-super-Mare.

The boys selected by the school medical officers, are convalescent or debilitated children, whose parents would not be able otherwise to provide them with a recuperative holiday by the sea. The boys stay at the Rotary Boys House where a happy and healthy holiday, with good food and regular hours, does much to restore them to their normal vigour. Travelling expenses are also provided by the Rotary Club.

The Cheltenham Rotary Club has been providing these holidays for schoolboys in the town since 1928 and up to four boys per month can be sent to Weston. On behalf of the School Medical Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks for this very fine example of "Service Above Self" and couple with it the gratitude of many parents in the town.

Child Guidance Clinic

The Child Guidance Service has been running at some disadvantage during the year owing to the resignation of Dr. H. S. Coulsting, the Medical Director. However, Dr. Coulsting did continue to do some part-time work at the clinic in Cheltenham while the post was being advertised. There has been considerable difficulty in filling the post, but at the time of writing a new Medical Director has been appointed and will take up his duties about mid 1960. The waiting list has become somewhat longer than usual because of the absence for so many months of a full time psychiatrist and we will be fortunate if we get back to normal conditions at the clinic by the end of 1960.

Employment of Children and Young Persons

During the year, 100 school children were examined as to fitness for employment before or after school hours and the necessary certificate was granted in each case. The standard of fitness among Cheltenham school children is such that it is exceptional if a certificate of fitness has to be refused to an applicant.

These children are kept under medical observation and there has never been any evidence that the part-time employment has been in any way detrimental to their physical or mental welfare.

All children leaving school are examined and advised in the light of their known medical histories as to any type of work for which they may have been found to be physically unsuitable and good liaison has been maintained with the Youth Employment Officer in this respect.

Handicapped Children

In accordance with the requirements of the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations, 1945, 74 pupils have been examined or re-examined during 1959 for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not they are suffering from a disability of the mind or body and if the disability is such as to fall within a category requiring special educational treatment as prescribed by the Regulations. Of the pupils examined during 1959:—

- 35 have been ascertained to be educationally sub-normal.
- 3 have been ascertained to be physically handicapped.
- 7 have been reported to the Local Health Authority under the Mental Deficiency Acts.
- 10 were found to have no disability.
- 17 were found to be suitable for education in an ordinary school.
- 1 was found to require supervision after leaving school.
- 1 has been ascertained to be maladjusted.

Environmental Hygiene

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND MANAGER OF THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR FOR 1959

*To His Worship The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present my report as Chief Public Health Inspector on the work carried out in the Department for the past year. It has been one of much activity, visits made to various premises totalling 25,480 an increase of almost four thousand over the previous year. The number of houses inspected under the Housing Acts was trebled and Closing Orders in force on underground rooms, which present such a difficult problem in Cheltenham, reached a total of 492. In 1955 a five year programme recommending action on 231 unfit premises, not repairable at reasonable cost, was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At the end of four years 312 premises had been dealt with as unfit for human habitation—81 in excess of the scheduled programme.

The Housing Committee continued its policy of buying suitable unfit houses for reconditioning. These properties, on which a subsidy is obtained for rehousing the original occupants, are also eligible for improvement grants. The plans and specifications are prepared by this Department and tenders are invited from local builders. The majority of houses have been provided with new roofs, floors, hot water service, bathroom, electric light and power and will have a life of at least thirty years. The scheme also preserves houses in the centre of the town from decay and provides dwellings at an economical cost where they are in greatest demand, especially by old people. The average cost of the purchase and reconditioning of each house is in the region of £950, excluding Improvement Grants, which renders this an attractive proposition for the Council.

Since 1936 the Council has concentrated on the redevelopment of the North Ward which extends from Malvern Street to Queen Street. The present stage will entail the eventual demolition of over 300 houses. The area will be redeveloped as a whole, the first evidence of which can be seen in the new houses and flats in the Bridge Street and Malvern Street district. It is now 25 years since a start was made by the clearance of the worst of the houses and courts such as Crowther's Passage, Butt's Passage and The Retreat.

Investigations into the atmospheric pollution existing in the Borough have continued. The average monthly deposit recorded by the three deposit gauges during the past year was 9.53 tons per square mile. The rapid deterioration in atmospheric conditions which occurs during fog is very effectively demonstrated by the smoke and sulphur dioxide recorder. After several hours of such weather conditions, the smoke stain on the filter paper is almost black, whilst on a summer's day hardly a trace of stain is visible.

It is gratifying to note that the old horizontal retorts at the Gas Works capable of producing 1½ million cubic feet of gas in 24 hours ceased production on 3rd April. The Council had made many representa-

tions to the Gas Board regarding these retorts which were undoubtedly the greatest contributors to air pollution, and a substantial improvement was subsequently seen in the results of the analysis of the deposit gauge contents in that area.

Early in the year a proposal was submitted to the Public Health Committee to establish a Smoke Control Area in the town in accordance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956. The Minister has recommended that new housing estates could be smokeless from the outset. It was therefore felt that the Hesters Way Estate should form Cheltenham's first Smoke Control Area as it is comprised almost entirely of post-war houses, the majority of which are owned by the Council and equipped with modern grates capable of burning smokeless fuels.

Cheltenham has a considerable reputation as a Spa and is set in delightful surroundings. There is, therefore, every justification for a progressive campaign to eliminate much of the domestic smoke which constitutes more than one half of the present pollution. Cleaner air would undoubtedly enhance the existing amenities of the town and make a great contribution to the health of its inhabitants.

212 samples of various foods and drugs were taken during the year and of these, fourteen were the subject of adverse comment by the Public Analyst, resulting in six warning letters being sent to the persons responsible. Proceedings were instituted against the supplier of milk and flavoured milk from a vending machine which were found to be deficient in milk fat by 20% and 17.5% respectively. The Magistrates found the case proved and imposed fines totalling £40 plus £18 12s. 0d. costs.

The utilisation of diseased meat for sale as cat and dog food, continues to give rise to grave concern. The present practice of allowing the meat of an animal that has died in a field to be cut up and distributed via cat and dog meat shops to housewives to feed pets in the home is, undoubtedly, one of the greatest public health menaces. All such raw meat should be obtained from healthy animals and all diseased meat should be subjected to steam sterilisation as is the practice with meat condemned at the Public Abattoir.

All animals killed at the Public Abattoir are inspected and stamped with the identification number of the Inspector who passes the carcass and organs as fit for human consumption. The additional accommodation and the installation of modern machinery have increased the ease and speed of dressing carcasses. In addition, the new cooling space has made it possible for a second Wholesale Meat Company to operate at the Abattoir. All these factors have contributed to a greater throughput of animals which, during the year, totalled 39,667, an increase of 53% over the previous year.

I am most appreciative of the confidence and assistance that has been given to me by the Chairman and members of the Public Health and other Committees of the Council, and I should also like to thank my Deputy, the Inspectorate and Staff for their loyal support during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. F. URSELL, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I.

SUMMARY OF VISITS

TABLE I

General Sanitation

Water Supply	145
Drainage	2,336
Stables and Piggeries	14
Offensive Trades	17
Fried Fish Shops	36
Common Lodging House	11
Houses Let in Lodgings	73
Tents, Vans and Sheds	135
Factories	355
Outworkers	24
Bakehouses	79
Public Conveniences	67
Theatres	5
Refuse Collection	645
Pest Control	146
Smoke Observation and Atmospheric Pollution	307
Marine Stores	12
Schools	18
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	599
Interviews	471
Total	5,495

TABLE II

Housing

<i>Under Public Health Acts:</i>							
No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	754
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	770
<i>Under Housing Acts:</i>							
No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,424
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,118
<i>Certificates of Disrepair:</i>							
No. of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
<i>Overcrowding:</i>							
No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
<i>Verminous Premises:</i>							
No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Re-Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
<i>Miscellaneous Housing Visits</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,188
Total							6,332

TABLE III

Food Hygiene, etc.*Inspection of Meat:*

Additional Visits for Meat Inspection (Full-time

Meat Inspector at Abattoir)

119

Visits to Other Premises

28

Food and Drugs Act:

School Canteens 106

Butchers 242

Fishmongers and Poulterers 35

Grocers 234

Greengrocers and Fruiterers 154

Dairies and Milkshops 98

Ice Cream Premises 215

Food Preparing Premises 147

Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens, etc. 451

Licensed Premises 105

Market Stalls 59

Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts 77

Food Inspection and Condemnation Visits 277*Visits in Connection with Sampling:*

Milk—Bacteriological 39

Food and Drug Samples 210

Miscellaneous Food Visits 81

Total ... 2,677

TABLE IV

Infectious Diseases and Disinfestation*Disinfestation:*

No. of Premises Treated 296

No. of Articles Treated 645

Infectious Diseases:

No. of Premises Fumigated 8

No. of Articles Disinfected 59

Removal of Articles for Destruction:

No. of Visits 448

Special Visits 1,714

No. of Re-Visits 517

Fumigation of Non-Infectious Articles 522

Total ... 4,209

TABLE V

Rodent Control*Rats and Mice:*

No. of Visits for Inspection 1,456

No. of Visits for Treatment 2,868

Other Pests:

No. of Visits for Inspection 237

No. of Visits for Treatment 788

Total ... 5,349

TABLE VI

Other Visits*Shops Act:*

Closing Hours	...	...	...	...	...	...	482
Employment of Young Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	375
<i>Merchandise Marks Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
<i>Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
<i>Pet Animals Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
<i>Removal of Unsound Food:—No. of Visits</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	242
<i>Waste Food Order</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
<i>Agricultural (Welfare) Act</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
<i>Animal Food Shops</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
<i>Pharmacy and Poisons Act</i>	8
<i>Clean Air Act</i>	76
Total							1,418

Total of Tables I, II, III, IV, V, and VI	25,480
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NOTICES SERVED

During the year the following notices were served and/or complied:—

	<i>Informal Notices</i>		<i>Formal Notices</i>	
	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied</i>
Merchandise Marks Act, 1926	1	1	—	—
Public Health Act, 1936	285	273	41	46
Factories Act, 1937	11	14	1	—
Shops Act, 1950	4	4	—	—
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	6	6	—	—
Gloucestershire County				
Council Act, 1956	1	1	—	—
Housing Act, 1957	7	9	3	5
	315	308	45	51

The Notices complied with include those outstanding from the previous year.

Information in Regard to Land Charges

Requests for information under the Land Charges Act were received and dealt with during the year in respect of 1,967 Official Searches.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 TO 1959
PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	32	25	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	339	311	10	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	16	19	—	—
TOTAL ...	387	355	11	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	—	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	8	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	12	8	1	4	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
 (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel (Making etc).	24	—	—	—	—	—
(Cleaning and Washing)	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	24	—	—	—	—	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Three atmospheric deposit gauges used for the collection and analysis of rainfall and deposited matter were maintained throughout the year in representative areas of the town. Two gauges remained on their former sites—one on the roof of Messrs. Shirers and Lances in the Promenade and the other in Moors Gardens, Tewkesbury Road, whilst the third was moved to the Hesters Way Health Centre.

The results of the gauge in the Promenade gave a monthly average reading of 9.77 tons of both dissolved and undissolved solids per square mile during the year.

The Moors Gardens gauge was close to the Gas Works and in the early part of the year recorded a maximum of over 20 tons per square mile per month on two occasions. The old horizontal retorts ceased to be used on the 3rd April, 1959, and an immediate improvement was observed, the average recordings over the next five months being only 9.4 tons per square mile per month. These retorts were originally built in the early part of this century and were capable of producing one and a half million cubic feet of gas in 24 hours. They consisted of eleven beds, each of eight retorts. They were intermittent in operation and produced clouds of black smoke, dust and sulphur and were undoubtedly the greatest contributors to air pollution that existed in the town. The Council had made representations on many occasions to the South Western Gas Board and the early closing down of these retorts was indicative of the desire of the Gas Board to co-operate with the Council in bringing about cleaner air.

The gauge at the Health Centre, Hesters Way, gave an average reading of 5.87 tons per square mile per month and is substantially less than the figure recorded for the centre of the town. This site is on a new housing estate where the sources of pollution are almost entirely domestic in origin.

Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide Recorder

This instrument pumps in air from 30 ft. above ground level, passes it through a filter and then through a solution from which the sulphur readings are obtained. It filters approximately 65 cubic feet of air in 24 hours. The information obtained by this dual instrument is used by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to build up a picture of the atmospheric pollution throughout the whole country. It also provides a basis from which local pollution can be considered in relation to that occurring in other towns and over a period of years it will be possible to compare results and ascertain whether the condition of the air is improving or deteriorating.

The acquisition of a Reflectometer has enabled a much more accurate assessment to be made of the filter shades. Formerly the measurement was done by visual comparisons which were prone to error. The average daily concentration of smoke per 100 cubic metres of air was 8 milligrammes, and the sulphur dioxide reading averaged 3.1 parts per million.

Industrial Pollution

Observations were made on the chimney of a local laundry and three contraventions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, were recorded.

A warning letter was sent to the firm concerned.

Investigations revealed that the use of Forest of Dean Nuts for banking down during the dinner hour and at tea time subsequently gave rise to excessive smoke emission. The owner then obtained a supply of Welsh Steam Coal for banking down and since that time no further contraventions have been recorded.

A new development occurred at a local brickworks when three disused kilns were taken over by another firm for the purpose of annealing castings. A number of complaints of smoke emission have been received but, so far, no contraventions of the Regulations have been observed.

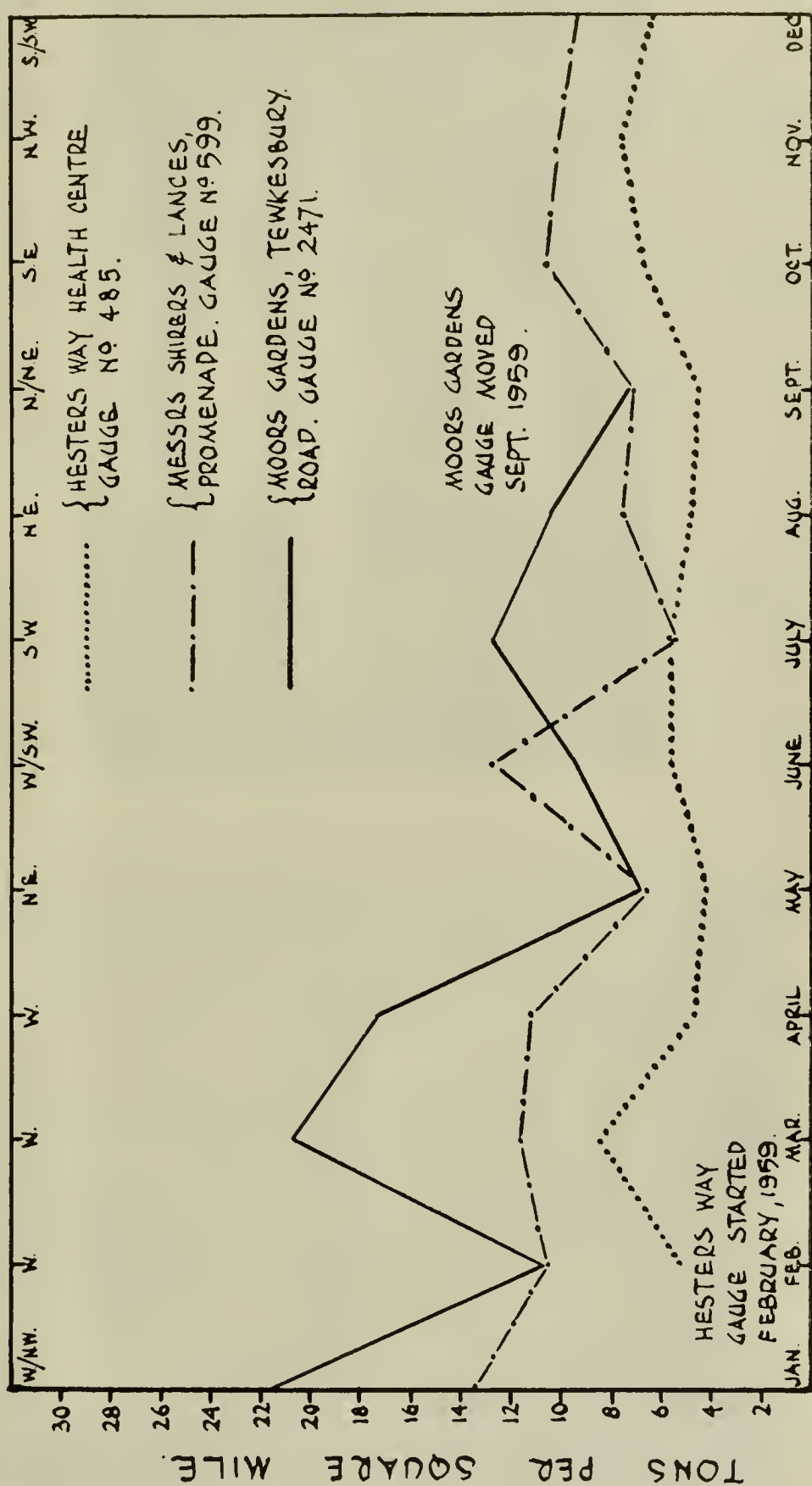
Pollution from industrial sources has been under strict control for many years. Infringements of the Act have been few and many firms have resorted to oil firing and automatic stoking and few warnings for contravention of the Regulations were necessary.

Other Forms of Pollution

The tremendous increase in road transport has resulted in an immense amount of pollution of the air at ground level. The chief offenders, in so far as visible pollution is concerned, are the heavy diesel lorries which, if poorly maintained or carelessly manipulated by the driver, do produce dense black clouds of smoke. The question of the elimination of sulphur from these vehicles exhausts presents many difficulties, although I am pleased to learn that steps are being taken to remove much of the sulphur from the heavy petroleum fuels.

DEPOSIT GAUGE ANALYSES FOR 1959

PREVAILING WINDS



HOUSING

During 1959, Closing Orders were made in respect of 59 unfit houses or parts of houses, seven Demolition Orders being enforced and two Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation were accepted. An additional 40 houses owned by the Council were certified as unfit for occupation.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government requested a Housing Programme in 1955 and the following assessment was submitted to him for the five years ending December, 1960:—

Estimated Number of houses unfit	139
(Including Clearance Areas)	
Estimated Number of Basements unfit	92
Total	231

The number of premises actually dealt with to December, 1959 is as follows:—

Houses dealt with by Demolition Orders, Closing Orders or Clearance Area	179
Local Authority houses certified unfit	62
Basements represented for Closing Orders	71
Total	312

It will be seen that some 81 unfit premises in excess of the scheduled programme have, so far, been dealt with. 111 have been demolished.

The rate at which Slum Clearance is carried out is largely dependent on the Council's ability to rehouse families displaced. At the end of the year 59 families were living in houses subject to Closing and Demolition Orders.

A scheme for improving the Tewkesbury Road and Maud's Elm Area is now in progress. The purchase and demolition of property in Malvern Street, Elm Street, Worcester Street and Waterloo Street has commenced and the area will be redeveloped for housing purposes, a preference being given to the original occupants as a great many of these wish to remain in the area. Consideration was given during the year to the future of two more streets of decaying property in this vicinity—Sun Street and Queen Street—and the Council decided to extend the Redevelopment Area to include these 130 houses.

17 Closing Orders were determined during the course of the year, 3 Undertakings cancelled, the necessary works having been carried out to render the premises fit for habitation, and 492 basements are now closed as unfit for human habitation.

45, BURTON STREET



Scullery—general dilapidations and decay.



The scullery was demolished and the rear living room adjoining was made into a kitchen, a new larder, window, sink and floor being provided.

5, ALBANY ROAD



Front Living Room: The roof has collapsed under this old window, the joists are rotten and extensive areas of damp and defective plasterwork exist due to neglected deteriorations.



Front Living Room: After reconditioning. The window has been entirely rebuilt and replastering has been carried out. The floor has been renewed.

The Public Health Committee were most concerned at the implications of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's draft regulations relating to underground rooms that were issued in June. These regulations represent a very substantial reduction in the present standard in regard to basement dwellings, and state that a bedroom, dining room, kitchen or home workroom should be exempt from the requirements relating to natural lighting. Regulations cannot be effective which state that a living room must have natural lighting but a kitchen or dining room need not. Such legislation based on these subtle definitions must inevitably fail in its purpose. The Committee have made representations to the Minister requesting that their Byelaws—approved by him in 1952 which are effective and easily understood, should remain in force in view of Cheltenham's unusual problem of basements in Regency terraces and Georgian buildings.

Underground rooms, devoid of any damp-proof course in floors or walls, with porous stone floors and often so dark that it is not possible to read a paper in the rooms in the middle of the day, cannot be said to provide suitable living accommodation for persons of any age.

RECONDITIONING AND MODERNISATION

The reconditioning and modernisation of selected unfit properties recommended to the Council for purchase continued during the year.

The average purchase price for the 10 houses dealt with so far is £217 10s. 0d. and the cost of reconditioning has averaged £724 17s. 9d.

The works required vary extensively and, in most cases, entail re-roofing, the provision of hot water service, bathroom, W.C. and often new floors, windows and other structural repairs.

In the past isolated properties in the older parts of the town have been allowed to fall into decay, but these premises, which are situated close to all the essential amenities, are in areas which will not be the subject of clearance or redevelopment orders and will have a life of up to 30 years.

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

The following action under the above Act was taken during the year (figures for 1958 are given for comparative purposes) :—

	1958	1959
(a) Closing Orders (Basement Dwellings)	19	24
(b) Closing Orders (Parts of Houses, etc.)	—	4
(c) Closing Orders Determined	7	17
(d) Demolition Orders	4	7
(e) Houses Closed	25	31
(f) Undertakings to render premises fit	7	3
(g) Undertakings cancelled	4	3
(h) Undertakings not to use premises for human habitation	—	2
(i) Houses demolished	39	31
(j) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit...	15	40

Action taken during the past fourteen years is as follows :—

	No. of Houses	No. of persons displaced
Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure	114	344
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners	35	143
Houses closed except for use as stores	108	318
Parts of buildings closed	327	890
Houses made fit as a result of formal notices	138	—

NEW HOUSES

New houses completed in the Borough since June, 1945 are as follows:

	By the Council	By Private Enterprise
Up to 31st December, 1950	1,426	
During 1951	263	
„ 1952	417	
„ 1953	924	
„ 1954	539	
„ 1955	428	
„ 1956	108	
„ 1957	92	
„ 1958	206	
„ 1959	63	
Up to 31st December, 1959	4,466	2,016

RENT ACT, 1957*Applications for Certificates of Disrepair, during 1959.*

1.	Number of applications for Certificates	...	...	...	9
2.	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...	—
3.	Number of decisions to issue certificates:—				
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	6
	(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	...	3
4.	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	3
5.	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	—
6.	Number of certificates issued	...	...	...	6

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates, during 1959.

7.	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
8.	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
9.	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
10.	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are 81 caravans on 11 Licensed sites in the Borough and only 4 of these sites accommodate 10 or more vans, vacancies seldom occurring.

Regular inspections are carried out and the attention of the site operators drawn to any infringement of the conditions laid down by the Council. All sites are provided with piped water supply, sullage water drainage, ash receptacles, suitable sanitary accommodation, hard standings and approach paths and one additional hut per caravan is allowed.

The standard of construction of caravans has improved slowly and it is hoped that the new legislation will set out standards enabling Public Health Authorities to deal effectively with poor construction, lack of fire resistance, insulation and overcrowding.

Caravans are becoming very popular but, for permanent accommodation by families with young children, even the larger vans are inadequate. Apart from the congestion and increased fire risk, the carrying out of household tasks, particularly in the Winter, is most difficult.

SAMPLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS

In accordance with Ministry of Health requirements, the following samples were taken :—

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Almonds, Ground ...	1	—	Lemon Juice ...	—	1
Almond, Paste ...	1	—	Lime Juice Cordial ...	2	—
Angelica ...	—	1	Lung Tonic ...	—	1
Apples ...	—	3	Malt Drink ...	1	—
Apple Juice ...	1	—	Malt Sweetcs ...	1	—
Apples, Sliced ...	—	1	Marmalade ...	3	—
Bacon ...	—	1	Mayonnaise ...	1	—
Beef and Ham Loaf ...	1	—	Meat Paste ...	—	1
Bccr ...	3	—	Meringue Powder ...	—	1
Biscuits ...	—	1	Milk ...	37	—
Blackcurrant Drink ...	1	—	Milk, Flavoured ...	1	—
Black Pudding ...	1	—	Milk Shake Liquid ...	1	—
Blood Purifier ...	1	—	Mincemeat ...	1	—
Bread ...	1	—	Mushrooms ...	1	—
Bronchial Mixture ...	—	1	Mushroom Ketchup ...	—	1
Butter ...	1	1	Orange Drink ...	4	1
Calcium Tablets ...	—	1	Oranges ...	—	1
Calomel Tablets ...	—	1	Orange Sweetcs ...	1	—
Cereals ...	1	—	Paraffin, Liquid ...	1	—
Cheese, Buttered ...	—	1	Pcas, Processed ...	1	—
Cheese, Spread ...	—	1	Pcel, Mixed ...	1	—
Cherries, Glacc ...	1	—	Pepper ...	1	1
Chewing Gum ...	—	1	Piccailli ...	2	—
Chicken, Caponised ...	—	1	Pickled Onions ...	—	1
Chicken, Curry ...	—	1	Pork Pies ...	—	1
Chocolate, Drink ...	1	—	Potatoes ...	—	3
Chocolate, Laxative ...	—	1	Prawns ...	—	1
Chocolate, Sweetcs ...	1	—	Ravioli ...	—	1
Chutney ...	1	1	Rheumatic Tablets ...	—	1
Cider ...	1	—	Rice Pudding ...	—	1
Clam Juice ...	1	—	Rum ...	1	—
Corned Beef ...	1	—	Salmon ...	1	—
Cough Mixture ...	1	—	Salts ...	—	1
Cream ...	1	2	Sauce ...	1	2
Custard Powder ...	—	2	Sauerkraut ...	1	—
Dates ...	—	2	Sausages, Beef ...	6	—
Egg Noodles ...	—	1	Sausages, Pork ...	4	—
Figs ...	—	1	Sausages, Tinned ...	—	1
Fish and Butter Spread ...	—	1	Scampi Curry ...	1	—
Fish Cakes ...	2	—	Sherry ...	1	—
Fish Fillets ...	—	1	Silkworms, Roasted ...	—	1
Flour ...	1	—	Soup ...	3	—
Fruit Cake Mixture ...	1	—	Soup Powder ...	1	—
Fruit Juice ...	1	—	Spaghetti ...	1	1
Fruit Pectin ...	1	—	Spice ...	—	1
Fruit Pudding ...	—	1	Sponge Puddings ...	—	1
Gelatine ...	1	—	Steak, Stewed ...	1	1
Gin ...	1	—	Stout ...	1	—
Ginger Wine ...	1	—	Sugar ...	1	—
Glucose Syrup ...	—	1	Sugar Crystals ...	—	1
Glycerin, Lemon and Honey Mixture ...	1	1	Sugar, Icing ...	1	—
Grapefruits ...	—	1	Sulphur Tablets ...	—	1
Grasshoppers, Fried ...	—	1	Sultanas ...	—	1
Ground Ginger ...	—	1	Tca ...	1	—
Halibut Oil Tablets ...	—	1	Tonic ...	—	1
Herbal Pills ...	—	1	Tonic Tablets ...	—	1
Ice Cream ...	12	—	Veal Curry ...	—	1
Jam ...	3	1	Vegetable Juice ...	1	—
Lamb Pie ...	1	—	Vinegar ...	4	1
Lemon Curd ...	1	—	Whisky ...	1	—
			Zaza Insects ...	1	—

Number of samples taken during 1959 :—

Formal ...	142
Informal ...	70
Total ...	212

**FOURTEEN SAMPLES WERE ADVERSELY REPORTED UPON BY
THE PUBLIC ANALYST DURING THE YEAR**

Sample Number	Description	Formal or Informal	Result of Analysis	Committee Decision
11	Beef Sausages	Formal	Meat content 48.01% i.e. below figure recommended.	Manufacturers notified, no action
52	Milk	Formal	20% deficient in milk fat.	Proceedings taken against supplier. Fined total of £40 plus £18 12s. 0d. costs.
53	Flavoured Milk	Formal	17.5% deficient in milk fat.	
66	Spaghetti	Formal	Failed to comply with Labelling of Food Order.	Manufacturers notified, no action.
81	Chewing Gum	Informal	Failed to comply with Labelling of Food Order.	Imported from Continent, no action.
107	Pork Sausages	Formal	Contained sulphur dioxide preservative in excess of maximum amount allowed.	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to manufacturer.
120	Milk (Channel Isles)	Formal	Deficient in milk fat by 20%	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to dairyman.
132	Cough Mixture	Formal	Did not contain any chloroform as stated on bottle.	Manufacturers agreed to change bottle cap to prevent loss of chloroform.
134	Beef Sausages	Formal	Contained sulphur dioxide preservative in excess of maximum allowed.	Warning letter sent by Town Clerk to butcher.
147	Glycerin, Lemon and Honey Mixture	Informal	Deficient in glycerol.	Formal sample proved to be satisfactory.
148	Roasted silk worms (Tinned)	Informal	Lead content 14 parts per million (Maximum allowed 5 pts. per million).	Vendors agreed to withdraw these items from sale. Suppliers and Importers notified.
149	Fried Grass-hoppers (Tinned)	Informal	Lead content 12 parts per million.	
166	Marmalade (Home Made)	Formal	Deficient in soluble solids.	Vendor agreed to cease manufacture.
181	Zaza Insects (Tinned)	Formal	Lead contents 7 parts per million.	Vendors agreed to withdraw remaining stock from sale.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

Regular visits to school canteen kitchens were made by the Inspectors. The staff of these canteens, who are most competent and conscientious, fully realise the need to maintain the highest standard of hygiene in connection with their work. There has been a gradual improvement in the premises, but several still fall short of the standard required and, indeed, deserved by the staff.

In some cases the drinking facilities for school pupils leaves much to be desired. One plastic cup provided in connection with a row of lavatory basins adjacent to the sanitary accommodation was not considered to be satisfactory and recommendations concerning this were sent to the Education Officer.

PERIPATETIC CATERING

The annual visit was made to the catering arrangements at the Cheltenham Cricket Festival and it is pleasing to report that the high standard reported on last year has been well maintained.

There is no doubt that this type of catering calls for a specialist approach. The facilities provided by specialist firms are excellent, making full use of disposable cups and plates and refrigerated containers for food and drinks, as well as covered plastic waste receptacles, together with adequate steriliser detergents for the washing up of cutlery and utensils.

SALE OF UNSOUND FOOD

<i>Complaints Received in 1959</i>	<i>Committee Decision</i>
Glass in Cornish pastie	Warning letter to baker
Poppy seeds in frozen peas	Warning letter to manufacturers
Extraneous matter in bread	Warning letter to baker
Mould on eclairs	Warning letter to manufacturers
Mould on pasties	No action in view of very high air temperature at time of complaint
Mould on pork pie	Warning letter to vendor
Mould on steak and kidney pie	Warning letter to vendor
Mould on frozen fish and chips	Warning letter to vendor
Larvae in milk bottle	Warning letter to dairyman
Dirt in milk bottles	Warning letter to dairyman
Mineral water contaminated with paraffin	Warning letter to manufacturers
Extraneous matter in biscuits	Warning letter to manufacturers
Mould on crumpets	Warning letter to bakers
Black particles in wheat germ	Warning letter to manufacturers
Mould on chocolate roll	Warning letter to manufacturers
Mould on Cornish pastie	Warning letter to vendor
Mould on pork pies	Warning letter to vendor
Mould on crumpet	Warning letter to manufacturers
Dirt in milk bottle	Warning letter to dairy
Mould on crumpets	Warning letter to vendor

FOOD HYGIENE

During 1959, 20 complaints were received with regard to foreign bodies in food, more than half of these referred to mouldy food, particularly pies, crumpets and cakes. Though it is appreciated that the Summer was exceptionally hot, more care on the part of the retailers would, in most cases, have prevented the growth of these moulds. Far too little attention is given to arranging a proper rotation of stocks of pork pies and similar commodities.

It is customary to make contact with the manufacturer in cases of this description to ascertain date of baking and despatch to shop, and probable "life" of foodstuff concerned, before taking the matter up with the retailer.

With the tremendous increase in the sale of such prepared foods, there is a strong case for the date of manufacture to be stamped on the wrapper, so that this can be seen, not only by the retailer, but by the customer who is making the purchase.

With one exception, warning letters were sent either to the vendor or manufacturer, following the above complaints. No proceedings were taken during the year under this heading.

A wide range of foodstuffs were sampled during the year and, of these, five formal samples were deficient, one failed to comply with the Labelling of Food Order and two contained excessive preservative. Three informal samples were unsatisfactory, two due to excessive lead content and one due to a deficiency in the constituent stated. Two of the formal samples, one of milk and the other flavoured milk, taken from a vending machine, were the subject of legal proceedings. The Public Analyst reported a substantial deficiency of 20% milk fat in the straight milk sample and 17.5% deficiency in the flavoured milk. The Magistrates accepted the Analyst's opinion that flavoured milk should contain a minimum fat content of 2.55% and the supplier was fined a total of £40 plus £18 12s. 0d. costs.

PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED AND REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Tinned Foods				<i>Tins</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	...	...	...	525	—	17	—	11
Fish	...	...	...	138	—	—	2	27
Vegetables	...	...	...	536	—	5	2	14
Milk	...	...	...	152	—	1	—	23
Fruit	...	...	...	1,116	—	14	—	5
Soup	...	...	...	102	—	—	3	9
Jam	...	...	...	70	—	1	—	9
Miscellaneous tinned foods				11	—	—	—	15
Total				2,650	2	—	3	1
General					<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	...	...	...	...	—	4	3	8
Fish	...	...	...	...	—	6	2	24
Bacon	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	23
Cheese	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	8
Cooked Meat	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	19
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	—	8	3	1
Poultry	...	...	...	...	—	14	2	16
Frozen Eggs	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	14
Flour and Cereals	...	...	...	...	—	2	1	21
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	—	2	1	21
Total				...	2	1	3	15
Grand Total				...	4	2	2	16

ICE CREAM

Number of Ice Cream Premises Registered at 31st December, 1959.

<i>Storage and Sale</i>	<i>Manufacture, Storage, and Sale</i>	<i>Manufacture only</i>	<i>Storage only</i>
236	9	1	5

ICE CREAM CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Fat %</i>	<i>N.F.S. %</i>	<i>Total Sugar %</i>	<i>Total Solids %</i>
31	10.9	27.1	22.1	38.1
32	11.5	26.3	20.8	37.8
33	10.6	27.8	20.8	38.4
91	12.9	25.5	23.7	38.4
92	13.0	26.5	24.4	39.5
93	10.2	26.7	23.7	36.9
94	13.4	26.3	20.2	39.7
95	11.0	28.3	19.5	39.3
96	11.8	28.1	20.6	39.9
97	10.8	24.3	17.8	35.1
98	11.0	24.1	21.1	35.1
99	10.5	26.9	21.9	37.3

ICE CREAM BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

<i>Ref. No.</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>No. of Bacteria per 1 c.</i>	<i>Bacillus Coli</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1559	Satis.	2000	Present in 2 tubes of 1/10 c.c.	Unsatisfactory Follow-up sample No. 1566
1560	Satis.	800	Absent	Satisfactory
1561	Satis.	150	Present in 3 tubes of 1/10 c.c.	Unsatisfactory Follow-up sample No. 1565
1562	Satis.	200	Absent	Satisfactory
1563	Satis.	5200	Absent	Satisfactory
1564	Satis.	1400	Present in 3 tubes of 1/10 c.c. and 1 tube of 1/100 c.c.	Unsatisfactory Follow-up sample No. 1567
1565	Satis.	6000	Absent	Satisfactory
1566	Satis.	3000	Present in 2 tubes of 1/10 c.c.	Unsatisfactory Follow-up sample No. 1568
1567	Satis.	5000	Present in 1 tube of 1/10 c.c.	Unsatisfactory, follow-up sample No. 1569
1568	Satis.	200	Absent	Satisfactory
1569	Satis.	200	Present in 1 tube of 1/10 c.c.	3rd Consecutive Unsatisfactory Sample

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

Eleven samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination. Three pre-packed samples were unsatisfactory but repeat samples were found to be up to the requisite standard. Only three samples were of loose ice cream and these had been prepared from a sterilised cold mix. The first batch were bacteriologically unsatisfactory and the firm were advised to adopt a more reliable method of sterilising the equipment. They eventually provided new machines for the manufacture of ice cream.

It is gratifying to note that the public are demanding more wrapped and packeted ice cream, which is far less susceptible to contamination.

**CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART AT CHELTENHAM PUBLIC ABATTOIR
ANNUAL SUMMARY ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1959**

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	3,862	342	1,863	19,106	14,494	39,667
Number inspected	3,862	342	1,863	19,106	14,494	39,667
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned	4	8	24	32	36	104
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,328	138	13	453	705	2,637
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	34.49%	42.69%	1.99%	2.54%	5.10%	6.91%
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned	12	12	6	—	7	37
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	136	65	16	—	486	703
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.83%	* 22.54%	1.18%	—	3.39%	1.86%
Cysticercosis Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	49	1	—	—	—	50
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	—	—	—	—	7
Generalised and totally condemned	1	—	—	—	—	1

* See note referring to T.B. Reactors.

Total Weights of Meat and Organs Rejected, 1959

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Bovine								
Meat in Carcass	8	16	3	7				
Meat not in Carcass	1	14	2	18				
Organs and Viscera	9	10	—	18				
TOTAL	20	1	2	15	20	1	2	15
Ovine								
Meat in Carcass	—	8	3	9				
Meat not in Carcass	—	1	3	21				
Organs and Viscera	—	9	2	14				
TOTAL	1	—	1	16	1	—	1	16
Swine								
Meat in Carcass	3	4	1	14				
Meat not in Carcass	3	15	1	15				
Organs and Viscera	1	8	3	1				
TOTAL	8	8	2	2	8	8	2	2
TOTAL CARCASS MEAT	18	2	—	—				
TOTAL ORGANS AND VISCERA	11	8	2	5				
TOTAL CARCASS AND ORGANS	29	10	2	5	29	10	2	5

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

There were fifty-one cases of Cysticercus Bovis during the year, the overall rate of infestation being 1.21 %.

CARCASSES REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

1959

DISEASES	Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Actinobacillosis, generalised actinomycosis, generalised ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anaemia, advanced ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Anthrax ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blackleg ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bruising, extensive and severe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus bovis, generalised ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cysticercus cellulosae ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus ovis, generalised ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Decomposition, generalised ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Emaciation, pathological	1	4	1	—	1	19	2	28
Fever (including salmonellosis) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foot and Mouth disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immaturity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
a) Stillborn or unborn carcasses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
b) Oedematous carcasses and carcasses in poor physical condition ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malignant catarrhal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mastitis, acute septic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melanosis, generalised ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metritis, acute septic ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Moribund ...	—	—	—	—	5	2	4	11
Abnormal odour, associated with disease or other conditions prejudicial to health ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema, generalised ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	5
Pericarditis, acute septic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Peritonitis, acute, diffuse, septic ...	—	1	—	—	2	—	7	10
Pleurisy, acute, diffuse, septic ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Pneumonia, acute, septic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pyæmia, including joint-ill ...	—	—	—	—	8	1	2	11
Sarcocysts, generalised ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septicaemia or toxæmia ...	—	—	1	—	4	2	12	19
Swine erysipelas, acute ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Swine fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trichinosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, generalised	—	12	6	6	6	—	7	37
Tuberculosis, Congenital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tumours	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
a) Malignant with secondary growths ...	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	4
b) Multiple ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uræmia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS ...	1	20	8	8	30	32	43	142

PUBLIC ABATTOIR

The total throughput of all types of animals for the year is appreciably higher than for 1958, being more than double in the case of sheep and lambs (19,106 in 1959; 8,726 in 1958).

The graph shows the number of animals, in terms of cattle units, slaughtered during the past five years, i.e. since meat rationing and "control" ended and, for comparison, the figure for 1938. It shows the general increase in the use of the premises over the years. Most of the increase for the year under review is due to the commencement of operations from the Abattoir of a second wholesale meat company in December, 1958.

This in turn was made possible by the provision of additional accommodation in the Council's scheme for modernising the premises. The scheme was completed during the year, after having taken some fifteen months. During this time the Abattoir remained open, due to the high level of co-operation between the various contractors and the Abattoir staff, allowing slaughtering to continue.

The work involved the erection of covered lairage for cattle and pigs and two stunning pens where sheep and pigs are electrically anaesthetised; the formation of a new dressing area for sheep and calves; the conversion of the five bays where pig slaughtering and dressing was carried out into a single dressing area where the "line system" is now used; the erection of an additional cooling hall; the installation of equipment such as a pig de-hairing machine, electric elevators, hoists, saws, and extractor fans as well as a new lighting system throughout, and the removal of the whole of the overhead rail system and the installation of new track.

These alterations have proved to be advantageous in a number of ways. As already mentioned, they have made it possible for a second wholesale meat company to operate. The new cooling hall was designed as two independent units, each half rented by the two companies as sales rooms. An adequate supply of hot water has also been installed, piped to convenient points in all dressing areas. The advantages to be gained from the additional equipment are not only of direct benefit to the slaughtermen, but also mean a higher maximum throughput of animals.

The incidence of *cysticercus bovis* in cattle was found to be slightly higher than the figure for 1958 (1.2% against 1.1%) but fewer carcasses had to be submitted to treatment by refrigeration. In one instance the whole carcass had to be totally rejected as unfit for food because the muscular infestation by the parasite was found to be unusually heavy and widespread.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food completed the Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme in this area during the year. This Scheme resulted in no less than 257 bovine animals being slaughtered at the Abattoir as "reactors" to the tuberculin tests. Of this number 32 were calves, 81 cows and 144 other cattle. Of these, 24 whole carcasses were rejected as unfit for food, the tubercular infection being found to be generalised. In another 152 cases localised lesions were found and the affected parts and organs rejected.

These "reactors" caused an overall percentage of tubercular infection in bovine animals to increase from 3.07% in 1958 to 4.07% in the year under review. If, however, the animals slaughtered under the Scheme are excluded, the figure for 1959 would be 1.22%. Now that the County has been declared an "Attested Area" a case of tuberculosis of cattle should become a rare event, providing a close co-operation between the Ministry's Veterinary Officers "in the field" and the Local Authority's Meat Inspectorate is continued. Nevertheless, the percentage of tuberculosis in pigs slaughtered at the Abattoir rose slightly to 3.39% from 2.91% in the previous year. Pigs are, however, not included in the Eradication Scheme but as the tuberculosis in pigs is mainly of the bovine type, this incidence should also show a reduction in future years.

See diagram page 62

PESTS CONTROL

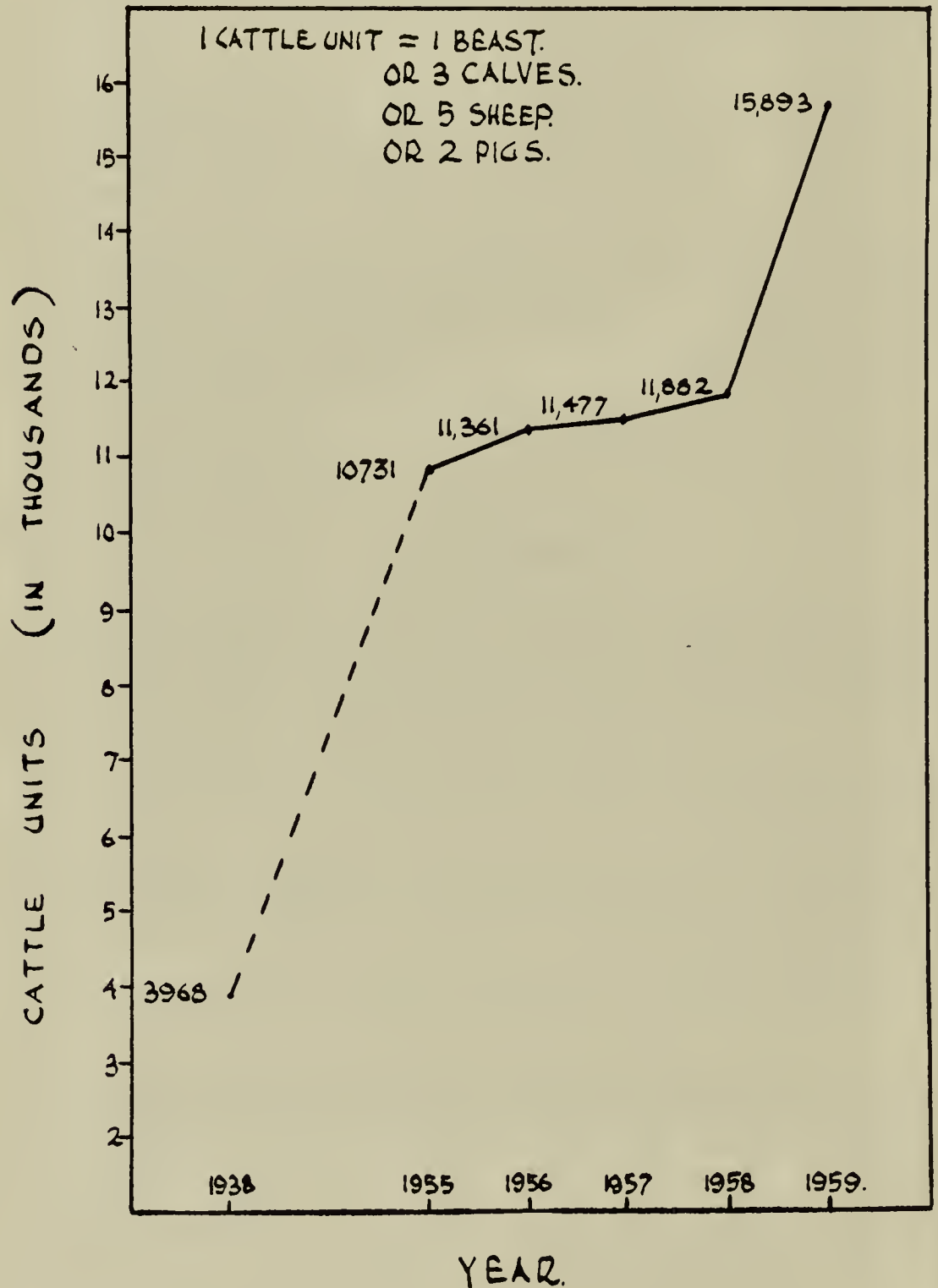
The test baiting of the sewers during the year has proved that the rat population is decreasing rapidly. Two treatments were carried out using 0.025% Warfarin containing the preservative Paranitrophenol, to prevent the bait from moulding. Partial takes only were recorded at less than 25% of the manholes treated with poison. The number of outbreaks of rats from defective sewers and drains have been less and fewer complaints were received from the public. The Rodent Control section paid particular attention during the year to streams, refuse tips and building sites.

The hot, dry summer was notable for the high total of over 600 wasps' nests which were treated and destroyed in the Borough. The Council continued to provide this free service where the pests were reported in and around private dwellings.

Rabbits re-appeared on parklands, allotments and railway embankments and were the cause of several complaints.

A more serious nuisance occurred in some public buildings and large terraced houses due to the activities of pigeons roosting and breeding in roof spaces. Over the years the birds are responsible for large accumulations of droppings and debris which, in turn, give rise to an infestation of beetles and other insects. A total of 196 pigeons were caught by the Rodent Control staff, who make night visits to the premises. A great reduction in the number of these birds is desirable in view of the damage they cause to both public and private buildings.

THROUGHPUT IN CATTLE UNITS CHELTENHAM PUBLIC ABATTOIR



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

PART 1—RATS AND MICE

	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Complaints Received : ...	244	287	531
2. Number of Premises Inspected :			
(a) As a result of complaint			
Private Dwellings ...		407	
Business Premises ...		137	
Local Authority Properties		15	
		—	559
(b) As routine visit or survey			
Private Dwellings ...		174	
Business Premises ...		39	
Local Authority Properties		64	
		—	277
3. Number of Premises found to be Infested :			
	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	
Private Dwellings ...	213	53	266
Business Premises ...	106	131	247
Local Authority Premises	13	4	17
		—	530
4. Number of Visits Paid :			
	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	
(a) For inspection ...	1,077	379	1,456
(b) For treatment ...	2,145	723	2,868
		—	4,324
5. Sewer Maintenance Treatments :			
Total number of manholes in Borough ...	...	...	1,657
Test Bait (April, 1959)			
Number of sewer manholes baited ...	...	...	131
" " " where bait taken ...	...	...	55
			42%
Maintenance Treatment No. 25 (May, 1959)			
Number of sewer manholes baited ...	...	...	111
" " " where poison bait taken ...	...	...	46
			41%
Maintenance Treatment No. 26 (October, 1959)			
Number of sewer manholes test baited ...	...	...	161
" " " where test bait taken ...	...	...	56
			35%
" " " baited with poison ...	...	...	313
" " " where poison bait taken ...	...	...	56
			18%

PART II—OTHER PESTS

1. Complaints received :							
	<i>Ants</i>		<i>Moles</i>		<i>Wasps</i>	<i>Insects</i>	
	<i>Flies</i>	<i>Beetles</i>	<i>Rabbits</i>	<i>Pigeons</i>	<i>Bees</i>	<i>etc.</i>	<i>Total</i>
	30	33	5	14	532	5	619
2. Number of Visits Paid :							
Inspection	25	47	59	40	58	8	237
Treatment	21	65	61	25	615	1	788

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S STAFF

as at 31st December, 1959

TECHNICAL

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	<i>A. L. Jones, M.A.P.H.I., San. Science R.S.H. *†</i>
District Inspectors	<i>H. Stone, M.A.P.H.I.*†</i> <i>G. J. C. Buck, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>A. H. Carling, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i> <i>R. J. Wintle, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.*†</i>
Pupil	<i>R. E. Jones</i>

ABATTOIR

Meat Inspector	<i>R. Hullab, M. Inst. M.*†</i>
Superintendent	<i>T. W. Agg</i>
Assistant Superintendent	<i>A. H. J. Lewis</i>
Stoker/Handyman	<i>A. Edwards</i>
Driver/Handyman	<i>A. S. J. Langston</i>

*Certified Meat and Food Inspector, R.S.H.

†Public Health Inspector's Education Board Certificate.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection Officer	<i>G. Cross.</i>
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DRAIN-TESTING, ETC.

Operator	<i>R. J. Wood</i>
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RODENT CONTROL

Pests Officer	<i>A. Anson.</i>
Operators	<i>G. Richardson.</i> <i>H. J. Nunney.</i>

CLERICAL

Senior Clerk	<i>D. Y. Harrison.</i>
Secretary (C.P.H.I.)	<i>Miss M. E. J. Edden.</i>
Clerical Assistant	<i>Vacant</i>
Shorthand-Typist	<i>Miss J. Pickering.</i>
Junior Clerk	<i>Miss B. Thomas</i>

